

REMARKS

Claims 24 to 46 were presented for examination and were pending in this application. In an Official Action dated April 6, 2006 all pending were rejected. Applicants herein amend claims. Applicants add no new claims. Applicants now requests reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims.

Applicants thank Examiner for examination of the claims pending in this application and addresses Examiner's comments below.

On page 2 of the Official Action, Examiner rejected claims 24, 25, 27, 28, 30-32, 34, 35, 37, 39, 40, 42, 43, 45, and 46 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Tantry (US Patent No. 5398336. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. Generally, while claim 1 actively generates a mapping table, Tantry passively make uses of predetermined responses to user interactions.

More specifically, claim 24, as amended, is directed to a system in a supply chain network, the system comprising:

one or more site data appliances comprising one or more types of data source equipment,
the one or more site data appliances configured to use a protocol to collect
specification information, including event information, from the one or more
types of data source equipment;
one or more site servers coupled to one or more site data appliances configured to gather
the specification information from the one or more site data appliances; and
a data center coupled to the one or more site servers configured to automatically generate
a mapping table which maps the event information, of the one or more site data
appliances, to event handlers for execution in response to an event.

Advantageously, the system of amended claim 24 can automatically generate a mapping table for use when executing event handlers associated with certain events, even when data source equipment varies in type.

Generally, Tantry discloses an object oriented factory floor management system that models factory floor entities as objects in a relational database. (See 2:9-14). Tantry discloses a first user interacting with the system through an X-terminal and a second user interacting with

the system through a bar code reader. Tantry discloses an Application Engine to generate application requests to Application Servers based on the user interactions. Tantry discloses that the Application Engine callback routines to map user interactions from an X-server to specific Application Engine functionality. (See 11:12-17). Thus, Tantry uses a predetermined mapping.

However, Tantry fails to disclose teach or suggest the recited limitations of amended claim 24. In particular, Tantry fails to disclose a data center that is configured to automatically generate a mapping table. Rather than actively generating the mapping table, the callback routines of Tantry passively rely on predetermined settings. The predetermined settings of Tantry are more apt for a proprietary system in which the same manufacturer builds and implements the entire system, or alternatively, a system in which all of the components are known during implementation. Because Tantry does not contemplate being able to plug-in data source equipment from various manufacturers after implementation, there is no disclosure of how to adapt the system accordingly. This severely limits the functionality of Tantry in an open environment such as the claimed supply chain network which may span across several entities that use different types of equipment, and are not cooperative with each other. On the other hand, the data center of amended claim 24 generates a mapping table that is specific to the data sources detected by the site data appliances. Thus, Tantry fails to disclose the data center of claim 24.

Moreover, Tantry fails to disclose the site data appliances as recited. The Office Action states that Tantry discloses the site data appliances as a combination of multiple bar code readers connected to a Communication Manager. Whereas the site data appliances of amended claim 24 are configured to collect specification information from the data source equipment, the Communication Manager of Tantry merely manages interprocess communications from, for example, the Application Engines and the Application Servers. Tantry assumes compatibility between the end system (X-terminal or bar code reader) with the database system since the system is described as operable without detailing specifics of configuration such as specification information. Furthermore, the communications passed by the Communication Manager include user interaction data to allow a user to initiate manipulations in the database. The user interaction data of Tantry is unrelated to specifications of various data source equipment collected in claim 24. Thus, Tantry fails to disclose the site appliances of claim 24.

Tantry also fails the site server as recited in claim 24. The Office Action states that the Tantry discloses the site server with the Application Server. While the site server of claim 24

gathers specification information from the site data appliances, the Application Servers of Tantry merely processes application requests into database requests. Again, the described operation of Application Servers in Tantry assumes predetermined settings. As a result, there is no need for Tantry to gather specification information associated with various types of data source equipment. Thus, Tantry fails to disclose the site server of claim 24.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 24 is patentable over Tantry, and in condition for allowance. It follows that claims dependent on claim 24, having additional limitations, are patentable over Tantry for at least the same reasons as claim 24. Similarly, independent claims 31, 38, 39, and 46, and related dependent claims, to the extent that they contain similar limitations to claim 24, are patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 24.

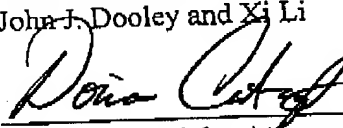
Claims 26, 29, 33, 36, 38, 41, and 44 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tantry in view of Examiner's Official Notice that XML and dotted notation are well known and it would be obvious to use them to take advantage of standardized methods. The Official Notice fails to cure the defects of Tantry. Therefore, these claims are patentable for at least the reasons discussed above.

Conclusion

In sum, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims as presented herein, are patentably distinguishable over the cited reference (including references cited, but not applied). Therefore, Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of these claims.

In addition, Applicants respectfully invite Examiner to contact Applicants' representative at the number provided below if Examiner believes it will help expedite furtherance of this application.

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